Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Gorgon Project, which is likely to be commissioned by 2012. Pricing of LNG would be indicated by the suppliers at the time of conclusion of the agreement, which is linked with financial closure of the project.

(d) The liquefaction and loading port facilities are planned by the suppliers at Barrow Island in North West offshore region of Australia, while in India it will be unloaded at Kochi Port.

Provision of piped cooking gas

231. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to provide cooking gas pipelines in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the State which shall be given the first preference in this regard and particularly Uttar Pradesh;

(c) how far it shall be cheaper than the gas cylinders which are being provided to the public; and

(d) how far it shall be safer than the present gas cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Presently Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is being provided in Delhi, Mumbai and Agartala by the Joint Venture Companies of Oil PSUs. Some private companies are providing Piped Natural Gas in the cities of Surat, Ankleshwar, Bharauch, Assam, Vadodara and Ahmedabad. The extension of PNG supplies to different parts of the country would depend upon the availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

(c) The price of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is generally cheaper than Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). However, a comparison of the prices at the consumer end will *inter-alia* depend upon factors such as level of subsidy on these fuels, level of taxation, availability of pipeline network and marketing/distribution costs.

(d) PNG is safer than LPG because it is lighter than air and in case of any leakage it disperses away in the atmosphere while LPG being heavier

than air, settles down on the ground. This makes PNG much safer than LPG.

Sakhalin Project of ONGC

232. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government raised the controversies over ONGC Sakhalin Project with the Russian Government during the recent visit of President Putin;

(b) if so, the details of such talks;

(c) the specific conclusions and gains and clarity for ONGC due to recent visit of Russian President;

(d) whether it is a fact that ONGC has been asked to reduce its stake in Sakhalin; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) During the visit of Russian President to India in January 2007, both sides acknowledged the potential of expanding cooperation in the oil and gas sector and agreed to further enhance direct dialogue between their oil and gas companies. On the sidelines of the visit, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Russian Rosneft oil company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on setting up two joint working groups — one each for upstream and downstream activities.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

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233. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed a multi-pronged strategy that includes